

**Ecosystem Restoration
Program**

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Memorandum

Date: January 14, 1998

To: BDAC Members

From: Dick A. Daniel, Assistant Director
Ecosystem Coordination Branch

Subject: Questions of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan raised by Members of BDAC

Staff identified five questions regarding the ERPP which came up during the December meeting:

1. *A need to explain exactly where flows will come from.*

ERPP flows will not come at the expense of existing water users. No water rights, either riparian or appropriative will be taken. The ERPP flows will be derived from one or all of the following sources: market transfers, conjunctive groundwater, purchase of water rights and new storage (surface and groundwater). The exact option or mix of options will not be finalized until Phase III of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

2. *A need for a "water balance sheet". How much restoration will be accomplished with how much water?*

Because the Bay-Delta Ecosystem has been degraded by so many factors, it is not possible to attribute benefits to improvement of a single ecological function. It is reasonable to assume that leaving out an important ecological function will result in partial restoration or failure.

3. *A need to compare current outflow versus proposed CALFED flows.*

In addition to identifying the need for improved base flows in the tributaries to the Delta, the ERPP proposes to cause flow events which stimulate ecological processes and behavioral changes in fish species. The proposed flows for the major tributaries are shown on the attached table as are the 10-day flow events. The intent is to use the increase in flows on the tributaries to make up the flow events and that all ERPP flow above current regulatory requirements become Delta outflow.

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
 Department of Fish and Game
 Department of Water Resources
 California Environmental Protection Agency
 State Water Resources Control Board

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
 Department of the Interior
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Bureau of Reclamation
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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4. *What type of conversion of ag lands, how much, and for what type of habitat?*

The attached table describes, at a programmatic level, the ecozones of the Delta, the habitat type targets and the possible magnitude of ag land conversion. All of these acreages are subject to adaptive management and, where possible, existing publicly owned land will be used first or in lieu of private land. All land will be acquired on a willing seller basis.

5. *A need for explicit objectives of the ERPP; draft conceptual model, including specific/temperature/timing objectives for each species.*

We are working on a workplan and scope of work to complete this request. Our plan is to have this work completed during the summer of 1998.

Attachments